



## Waterfront campus construction starts

Construction has started on George Brown's new Waterfront Campus. Workers will spend the next six months preparing the site on Queen's Quay East for the college's new Health Sciences building. They're building a giant underground wall to keep out water from Lake Ontario and digging the four-storey deep hole that will contain the foundations of the building. When completed the building will house 3,500 students enrolled in Health Sciences programs and the campus is forecast to be a global showcase for interprofessional learning.

They kicked off the project on the morning of Monday Nov. 23 by drilling a giant hole 15 metres deep — two-metres into the shale bedrock — then inserting a steel I-beam and filling the hole with concrete. This underground column — called a caisson — was the first of almost 400 that will eventually line the outside perimeter of the 50 by 100 metre site — making it impervious to water. "It was a very exciting moment for the project team" says Terry Comeau, Executive Director of Waterfront Campus Development.

Special low-vibration drilling rigs from Germany are being used because work is being done near the aging quay wall and close to the foundations of the Caisson building to the west. There were no unpleasant surprises at the start of construction, says Comeau. In fact, the landfill that exists on the site, dating from the 1950s, was in better condition than expected.

Once EllisDon construction crews get enough of the caisson wall built — at a rate of 8 caissons a day — they'll start to dig out the inside of the building site — sending truck after truck of soil and bedrock to landfill sites.

Environmental assessments have found some of the soil to be contaminated with "light containments" that reflect the site's use as a marine terminal for several decades, says Comeau. Each shipment will be tested and sent to the appropriate Ministry of Environment-approved landfill site, she says. "We're taking a pretty good site and making it a great site from an environmental perspective," she says.

Working over the winter may be hard on the 20 to 30 EllisDon workers at the lakefront site — but cold weather actually makes dealing with waterlogged soil and rock easier because it partially freezes, says Comeau. The building's foundation will be built



Construction of George Brown's new Health Sciences campus started Nov. 23 when construction crews used this huge drilling rig to create the first of 400 underground concrete pillars that will form a waterproof wall around the waterfront building site. It will take about six months to create the wall and dig out the soil and rock it contains — then construction of the building itself will start.

inside a huge hole that remains when our caisson walls are finished.

The building will begin with three levels of underground parking and an underground concourse level that will extend under the road just north of the building, and possibly into another college building that is part of a potential phase two.

While construction continues on the site, planning for the inside of the building is well underway lead by Lorrie Shekter-Wolfsen, Assistant Vice-President for Waterfront Development and Nerys Rau, Project Manager with the Faculty of Community Services and Health Sciences. Academic areas and services

have been assigned blocks of space within the building after extensive employee input. "It's a very enthusiastic faculty," says Comeau.

George Brown has been receiving a lot of support from the City of Toronto, Waterfront Toronto, and other regulatory agencies, who expedited their processes to make sure construction of the building wasn't unnecessarily delayed, she says. As the building design is being refined and detailed, the project will go to the Waterfront Toronto Design Review Panel for the second stage of approval in December, she says. "We are optimistic that our positive momentum will continue", says Comeau.



## Graduate goes for gold in Olympic product sales

Sabrina Davis's Brampton office is far from the snowy slopes of Whistler, BC, but the George Brown graduate is going for Olympic gold. As manager of corporate sales for the Hudson's Bay Company's popular line of Olympic merchandise she deals with organizations who want to share the spirit of the Games with their clients, customers or employees.

Surrounded by products emblazoned with the Olympic rings, Davis's job is to ensure her clients get what they want, when they want it, and at the right price – and that includes creating custom orders. "We'll develop an Olympic jacket for a client, for instance," she says. With the Vancouver Games set to start in February, time is running short for ordering, adding pressure to an already blistering pace. "I come in early and I'm always working nights," she says.

But the time-challenged nature of the fashion industry is something Davis was prepared for in the Fashion Management program at George Brown. She worked part-time for The Bay while in college and when she was hired full-time after graduating in 2007.

Davis had tried studying a few things but Fashion Management clicked for her. "The difference was incredible," she says. "As soon as I entered the program, I knew this had to be." The courses fit perfectly with what she was doing at part-time at The Bay, and she became motivated to succeed. Her marks took her very close to the honour roll, and the more she learned, the more she connected and networked with her bosses at work. When a position came up on The Bay's in-house Olympic team she was immediately recruited for the spot. She didn't even have to interview for it.

Hers is a plum job – her portfolio also includes general corporate and uniform sales – that combines design, product sourcing and project management; the sort of job that most up-and-comers would guard fiercely. Yet 26-year-old Davis goes out of her way to help other George Brown College graduates land similar positions on the retail side. "I like to see people succeed," she says.

## College namesake was ahead of his time

The man whose gave his name to the college was ahead of his time. At a time of rampant racial prejudice George Brown – a 19th century journalist and politician – fought against slavery and helped black Torontonians move into positions of influence. At a time when women were second class citizens he encouraged his daughters to be some of the first female students at U of T. At a time when the rich wielded all power he championed equality and democracy.

This sort of thinking remains an influence at *The Globe and Mail*, the newspaper he founded, and at the college that bears his name, according to *Globe* publisher Phillip Crawley. "We still enshrine in the *Globe* the values that mattered to him," he told college employees at George Brown Day in late October. "...I'm very pleased you are keeping that spirit alive."

Crawley was on campus to help unveil a bronze plaque honouring George Brown that will be installed outside the main door St. James Campus at 200 King St. E., and the main door Casa Loma at 146 Kendal Ave., as well as eventually at the Waterfront campus. It reads: "George Brown 1818-1880. An outspoken journalist, politician, reformer, active citizen and defender of public education, George Brown's life exemplified his passionate commitment to the values of freedom and inclusion."

George Brown was born in Scotland and settled in Toronto in 1843. The following year he founded *The Globe*, a leading reform newspaper (now *The Globe and Mail*). From its editorial pages he spoke out tirelessly on the issues of the day, including slavery. He was a leader in the founding of the Anti-Slavery Society of Canada, which campaigned to abolish slavery in North America and help escaping slaves establish themselves in Canada.



Plaque honours our namesake: A plaque honouring George Brown, the 19th Century politician and journalist after whom the college was named, was unveiled in late October by (from left) *Globe and Mail* publisher Phillip Crawley, Jonathan Gould, of George Brown's School of Design dressed as Brown, and President Anne Sado. The plaques will be installed on the outside of St. James Campus, Casa Loma, and the waterfront campus, when it is completed. George Brown was the founder of *The Globe* newspaper in Toronto, the forerunner to today's *Globe and Mail*.

George Brown was a friend to many in the city's African-Canadian population. Once he was saved from a serious accident by William Hubbard, a Toronto baker and son of a former slave. George Brown encouraged his rescuer's political ability and Hubbard went on to become Toronto's first African-Canadian Deputy Mayor. A Member of Parliament in the 1850s and '60s, George Brown was a Father of Confederation credited with uniting the factions that came together to form the new country of Canada in 1867.

A century later, inspired by his vision of citizenship and his role in shaping the future of the city, the Ontario Government named the institution of George Brown College after him. 2009"



**ROYAL VISITOR** – Prince Charles meets George Brown's Ayla Newhouse during his visit to Toronto in November. The Prince, who is interested in architecture and urban planning, spent some time looking at an exhibit about the World House Exhibition, which is being organized in part by the School of Design's Institute without Boundaries. He met Newhouse and Elise Hodson, employees of the Institute without Boundaries and looked at the student-created design for a house that looks like an upside-down canoe. "He asked why it looks like a space ship," says Newhouse. What was it like meeting a prince? Newhouse admits she was nervous at first. "He makes you comfortable right away. It was just like meeting an ordinary guy," she says.

# Employee excellence celebrated on George Brown Day



**SPECIAL EVENT:** Faculty of the Special Events program in the Centre for Hospitality and Culinary Arts were presented with a team achievement award. On hand were (from left) Ballu Thakur, Paul Araujo, Staff Development Director Bob Cox and Ijaz Jamal.



**STUDENT SUCCESS TEAM HONOURED:** George Brown's Student Success team were presented with a team award. On hand were (from left) Dawn Lovas, Kate Gies, Stevan Cric, and Sameer Farjam.



**GEORGE BROWN'S TOP 10 TEACHERS FOR 2009:** The college's top teachers – as reflected in student feedback questionnaires – were honoured with awards on George Brown Day in late October. On hand were (from left) Rainer Blundell of the Centre for Construction and Engineering Technologies, Candice Helm from the Centre for Arts & Design, Rene Chauvin of the Centre for Hospitality and Culinary Arts, Dorothy Ward of the Centre for Arts & Design, James Simon of the Centre for Arts & Design, Gillian Johnston of the Centre for Community Services & Early Childhood, and Louie Biondello of the Centre for Arts & Design. Other Top Ten Teachers not in the photo are: Reshma Budhu of the Centre for Community Services & Early Childhood, Tom Malcomson of the Centre for Preparatory and Liberal Studies, and Peter Rohner of the Centre for Hospitality and Culinary Arts.



**CARETAKING TEAM GETS AWARD:** George Brown Caretakers were presented with an award for their team achievements. On hand to accept the award were (from left) Housekeeping Manager Anthony Scarlato, and St. James Caretakers Pat Goodman and Ali Haroun.



**CONVOCATION TEAM CELEBRATED:** Gifty Quarty, a specialist in the Student Academic Records department of the Registrar's Office accepts a team award on behalf of the Registrar's Office team that plans and executes annual graduate convocations. With her is Staff Development Director Bob Cox.

# President Anne Sado



With the approach of each holiday season, I often find myself reflecting on how fortunate we are in the college community truly are. As the needs in our communities are more pronounced during these tough economic times, we should feel both reassured and proud to be a part of George Brown's commitment to supporting the community.

For me, George Brown's community mandate and historical role as an engine of social progress has always been one of the privileges of working for the college. Acting on our promise to build and maintain access to education means directly addressing issues in the community, and adds a crucial dimension to our priority of preparing workplace-ready graduates. It would not be an overstatement to say that George Brown plays a major role in community development for Toronto and the GTA.

One of the ways the college has been working to support city-wide progress in the community is through its partnership with the Toronto Community Foundation. The foundation's recently released *Vital Signs 2009 Report*, which is widely anticipated and recognized as a valuable snapshot of Toronto's economic and social health,

was produced entirely with research provided by the college (as well as with George Brown's Associate Vice-President Academic Marjorie McColl as a member of the report's advisory committee).

Some of the key findings in the report include the continuing rise in the cost of housing, a disproportionate impact of the recession on recent immigrants as well as youth, and an aging workforce. At the same time, the city continued to rank highly among global cities in terms of quality of life, business environment, innovation, and arts and culture. This contrast is aptly captured by the report's subtitle "Toronto: highly desirable but seriously unaffordable."

Of particular significance, however, is the report's far-reaching scope which explicitly and convincingly links the health of our communities with the health of the entire city. This bigger picture view is precisely how we in the college should view our role – as an educational institution deeply rooted in the community. How we direct our activities can and does have far-reaching implications for the city as a whole.

The college already plays a leadership role on a number of community fronts which, when considered in the civic context, are essential to the city's overall well-being. Our Community Partnerships Office finds innovative ways to support Toronto's most marginalized and vulnerable communities. Working with over 50 community partners and every division in the college, they deliver programs that address the issues the *Vital Signs Report* identifies, such as the recently launched Community Health Education through Food Project (CHEF) aimed at

delivering educational programs that provide low-income families and individuals with the skills to make healthy food choices and nutritious meals. CHEF is a collaboration between seven external community partners and features our School of Hospitality and Culinary Arts as the lead for training, our Centre for Health Sciences to provide expertise on community health and our Office of Applied Research to support the evaluation of this city-wide initiative. In addition to such projects, our continued focus on immigrant education places us at the forefront of maintaining a steady and competitive future workforce. And of course our successful United Way campaigns each year are important contributions to the community

These are but a few examples of George Brown's vital links to Toronto and its communities, and show that we are already in a position to not only shape but lead on many of the important issues facing Toronto. To realize the college's full potential as a leader requires us to continue building on our existing strengths and voicing our solutions.

As you take a well-earned break and spend time with family and loved ones this holiday season, rest assured that your hard work and dedication at George Brown are helping those less fortunate and, in turn, our city's collective future. I wish you all a wonderful holiday, and a happy and safe new year.

## GREEN SPOT

As part of continuing efforts to reduce the College's eco-footprint we have now switched to photocopy paper with 30 per cent post consumer waste recycled content. Each year this will save almost 900 trees and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 37 metric tonnes.

This is great news... but the college still uses almost 23 million sheets of photocopy paper a year. If this was all stacked in one pile it would be four times as high as the CN Tower!

Please help the College achieve its Green Plan goal of reducing paper consumption by 15 per cent by only printing when absolutely necessary. If you must print, print double-sided using one of the College's photo-copy machines which are more energy efficient and will also save toner.



**Make it happen.**

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George Brown News is a publication of the Marketing and Communications Department, George Brown College at 200 King St. East, Room 542E, Toronto, ON M5T 2T9  
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Printed in Toronto on December 1, 2009  
<http://insite.georgebrown.ca/communications/gbn/default.asp>

